

THE KOREA REVIEW.

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The Russo-Japanese War.

At our last writing the Russians and Japanese were facing each other across the historic Yalu. The Koreans have always called this the *Amnok* or "Duck Blue" River, perhaps because they thought the blue reflection of the sky in its waters resembled the brilliant blue on the wing of the duck. The word Yalu is the Chinese pronunciation of this same Amnok.

Our interest at present, however, centers about the important question as to the Russians' boast that though beaten on the sea they will be easily victorious on land. As the two forces sat facing each other across this stream a very large question was awaiting solution. It was Japan's Rubicon and the world waited eagerly and anxiously to see what the outcome would be. It was evident that the Russians intended to fight here. They had made elaborate preparations, and while it was impossible to forecast what their exact intentions were, it appeared in the course of operations that they had deliberately taken a position from which they did not intend to be driven easily.

One would have expected that they would adopt either the policy of closely watching the Japanese and strongly opposing their crossing of the river or of falling back until they met reinforcements that would strengthen them sufficiently to render the issue of a set battle reasonably sure. But they did neither. However

we will set down so far as possible the actual manœuvres of the two belligerents and the reader can judge for himself.

Between Wiju and the opposite bank of the river lie several long narrow islands making the full width of the river about three miles. These islands stretch from a point about three miles above Wiju to some six or seven miles below that city. The Manchurian town of Antung lies nearly opposite the lower end of these islands. Directly opposite Wiju is the town of Chu-lien-ch'eig and at a point somewhat further up, about opposite the upper end of Ojūk Island lies a hill called Tiger Hill.

This elevation lies in the angle made by the junction of a small stream called the Ai-ha with the Yalu. The country all about this section is hilly or rolling, offering splendid opportunities for defensive operations, especially in the face of an enemy which is compelled to cross the river by pontoon bridges.

Active operations began on the morning of the 26th of April. The Japanese army consisting of the Second and Twelfth Division, and the Imperial Body-guards numbered approximately 30,000 men, although it is doubtful if there were more than 25,000 in the fighting line. It was decided to send the Twelfth division some distance up the river to attempt a crossing. The Imperial Guards were to cross a short distance above Wiju nearly opposite Tiger Hill while the Second division was to cross almost opposite Wiju.

The first thing to be done was to clear the islands in the river of Russians. A considerable number of them had taken up a position on Ku-ri Island or "Nine *li* Island" above Wiju and on the morning of the 26th a portion of the Imperial Guards covered by the guns planted by the Japanese on the Korean hills behind them dashed through the shallow water which lay between the Korean shore and the island and engaged the Russians in a sharp encounter. The Japanese say that the shells thrown over their heads among the Russians tore up the yellow sand and sent it flying in all directions and this together

with the flash of the explosion and the rolling clouds of smoke made a scene of great impressiveness. The Russians fought stubbornly but were compelled to withdraw and before night the island was cleared. All this time the Russian guns on the heights beyond, called "Tiger Hill," were talking volubly and shells from the redoubts further back near Chu-lien-eh'eng fell on the island and even on the Korean bank of the Yalu, but the casualties from this source were comparatively few.

While the work of clearing this island was going on the Japanese were busy both to the right and left. The Twelfth division had moved northeast along the river bank but out of sight of the Russians until they reached a point some ten miles up the river called Su-gu-jin by the Koreans, or Sui-ko-chin by the Japanese. The Russians were completely in the dark as to this manœuvre and the Japanese suffered no opposition in throwing a pontoon bridge across the river at this point and effecting a crossing. These were precisely the same tactics adopted by the Japanese in the China-Japan war in 1894 and they express great surprise that the Russians did not remember it and prepare for such an event. In 1894 the crossing was made in the Autumn when the water was low, and it was a comparatively simple operation, but this time the melting snows of Spring had raised the river and made it a much more serious matter.

Meanwhile important business was being transacted far down the stream below Antung. The Japanese gun-boats *Uji* and *Maya*, two torpedo-boats and two armed steamers had come up to Yongampo the day before and now on the 26th two of these craft went up the river on a reconnoitering trip. They came in touch with the enemy on the further bank in the afternoon and for about an hour exchanged shots with the Russians who were posted on the hills near Antung.

The Japanese who had crossed to Nine Li Island or *Kurido*, as soon as they had cleared it of Russians began the attempt to lay a pontoon bridge to the northern bank but in this attempt they were seriously hindered by the Russian guns planted on the heights about Tiger Hill

or Kosan as the Japanese call it. It is this temporarily successful resistance which formed the basis of the report sent by the Russians to St. Petersburg that they demolished the bridge and the debris floated down the river. The Japanese themselves acknowledge that at this point they suffered a temporary reverse, but it did not prevent the ultimate passage of the river at this point by the Imperial Body-guard. It was apparently during the night of the 26th that the bridge was completed from Nine Li Island to the Manchurian side of the Yalu but it was not large enough to carry the troops and guns with sufficient speed, so the Imperial Body-guard crossed partly by the bridge and partly by boats. They accomplished this on the 27th in the face of considerable opposition but the Russians were not in sufficient force to hold them in check. At the same time the 12th Division was making its way around by the north so as to attack the Russian position at Chu-lien-ch'eng. They seem to have encountered little or no opposition and they did not move rapidly, for it had evidently been planned to concentrate the entire Japanese army upon the main Russian position only after the various divisions had all effected a crossing.

The Russians on Tiger Hill were making trouble for the Japanese who were building the bridge across the river at Wiju by which the 2nd Division was to cross and it was necessary for the Imperial Guards to drive them out. So on the 28th they moved south from the position they had won opposite Nine Li Island and attacked Tiger Hill. In this they were successful for we learn from the Russians that on the 29th an attempt was made to dislodge the Japanese who had taken Tiger Hill. This attempt was made only with artillery from the other side of the Ai-ha, the small stream that enters the Yalu at this point. The Russians reported that the Japanese retired from the position. This we can readily believe for since they had dislodged the Russians from that point and so stopped the opposition to the building of the bridge directly below, it was not essential that they occupy the exposed position in the face of severe fire.

By the morning of the 30th the bridge across the

islands and the river channels between Wiju and Chu-lien-ch'eng was completed in spite of continued but desultory firing by the Russians. And here was one of the serious points of weakness on the Russian side. Their guns were too small to do the work required. Because of this lack there was nothing to do but oppose the Japanese crossing as best they could and meanwhile intrench themselves strongly in anticipation of the inevitable passage of the river by the enemy. One can only wonder why the Russians, when they sent their scouting parties across into Korean territory, did not mass their whole available force at the Yalu, bring up powerful batteries and make a genuine fight of it. As it was, the result was a foregone conclusion. The Russians had not enough men to follow up the river and checkmate the Japanese wherever they should attempt to cross and they did not even have the proper guns to prevent the construction of a pontoon bridge directly in front of and within easy range of their main position. We can only conclude that the Russians made one or other of two huge blunders. Either they were entirely ignorant of the numbers and equipment of the Japanese or they cherished the fatuous belief that the Japanese even with superior numbers and equipment were not good enough soldiers to carry the Russian position. It seems to us that the disaster to the Russian forces at the Yalu and the disaster to the Russian fleet at Port Arthur had one and the same cause—the Russians *did not know*.

On the night of the 30th of April the opposing forces were situated as follows: The Imperial Guards lay on the northern bank of the shallow Ai-ha with strong Russian intrenchments before them on the other side. The 12th Division was on the same side of this brook but further up. The 2nd Division had crossed the Yalu and lay directly before the town of Chu-lien-ch'eng. All was ready for a combined attack upon the morrow. The Russian intrenchments were in a semi-circle about Chu-lien-ch'eng and extended a distance of some three miles and behind them on the heights were their batteries. The Japanese line was necessarily longer and was

prepared, on the morrow, to spread out in a line whose entire length would be some five miles. It was evidently the Japanese plan to surround the Russian position and cut off their retreat. In order to prevent this the Russians, unless entirely successful in the front, would be compelled either to retreat or to disengage a sufficient number of their troops to head off the Japanese who were marching around to their rear. In either case their position was a practically hopeless one, knowing what we do of the Japanese fighting quality. For the advantageous position of the Russians would either have to be abandoned or so depleted of men as to be untenable. Already before the battle begun, the Japanese had completed fully one third of the circle necessary to entrap the Russians.

The first day of May dawned upon the two belligerent forces facing each other and prepared for stern work. The attack on all three sides was simultaneous. The Twelfth Division with their artillery behind them on the heights forded the shallow Ai-ha and advanced on the extreme right, but they met with less resistance and suffered less than either of the other divisions. The Imperial Guards crossed the Ai-ha near its junction with the Yalu under severe fire and at the same time the Second Division deployed and advanced in a double line upon the enemy's intrenchment. It is said that the first line of intrenchments appeared to be deserted. Though persistently shelled by the Japanese not a sign of life appeared, but when the first line of the Japanese had approached very near, the concealed enemy poured in a withering fire which staggered the Japanese for a moment, and they had to lie down in order to hold the ground already won. The second line advanced without any hesitation and soon the two lines were dashing over the Russians' defensive works. By nine o'clock in the morning the outer works were all taken and the Russians were pushed back close under the heights from which their batteries were still doing valiant work. But it was fast becoming evident that the greater length of the Japanese lines would soon turn the ends of the Russian position

and entrap the entire force. So orders were given to retreat toward Ham-mak-tong (or Gamato). Even so the order was too late and the Russians found to their dismay that they could escape from the *cul-de-sac* only by deserting the guns. This they were forced to do and twenty-eight of them fell into the hands of the Japanese. All the afternoon the Japanese pressed after the retreating Russians and toward evening the latter, having reached Ham-mak-tang, were compelled to turn and fight in order to cover the retreat. At this point the Russians put up such a desperate fight that the Japanese lost a third of all the men that fell during the day. The Russians were not demoralized by the defeat. To be sure they were obliged to abandon their guns in the haste of their retreat, which shows that they were inexcusably ignorant of the real conditions under which they were fighting, but they upheld the traditions of the Russian army in not becoming demoralized when they were placed in such a critical position at Ham-mak-tang.

It is probable that the entire force of the Russians consisted of about 17,000 men which, considering the ground they occupied and the difficulties the Japanese had to work against, should have sufficed to hold the 25,000 Japanese in check. We can hardly believe that 17,000 Japanese similarly situated would have allowed 25,000 Russians to effect the crossing and secure a substantial victory in so short a time. The work that the Japanese did at the Yalu argues well for their prospects in subsequent engagements, for it is probable that as they are taking the offensive they will repeatedly be called upon to attack the Russians in defensive positions. It has been proved that they can do this and the only myth that remains to be shattered is that if the Japanese should suffer a reverse and the Russians should be in a position to take the offensive the Japanese would lose their heads and become demoralized.

**Conditions
in Korea.**

But to return now to Korea and ask what effect all this has had upon the peninsula and its people; we note first the effect produced upon the currency. Before the beginning of hostil-

ities the nimble nickel was quoted at something between \$2.20 and \$2.60 to the Yen, but the outbreak of hostilities and the coming of the Japanese acted in two ways to stiffen the weak-kneed Korean currency. First, Korean merchants suspended their purchases of Japanese and other foreign goods and this lowered the demand for Yen. Secondly the Japanese authorities needed Korean money for the use of their people in the country where the Yen is not current. This tended to add value to the nickel; so that at one time it took only \$1.40 of Korean money to purchase a Yen. The extreme instability of the currency added to the entire absence of freight facilities caused an almost complete cessation of import and export business, until the Japanese demonstrated beyond a doubt their complete dominance of the waterways between Korea and her neighbors to east and west. As soon as that became clear, trade relations were quickly resumed and to all appearances are in a flourishing condition. The Japanese quarter in Seoul is simply bursting with excess of new imports which is mainly due without doubt to the fact that goods previously ordered and shipped had been congesting in Japanese ports until steamship communication should be resumed..

We need hardly say that the war has poured millions of money into Korea, most of which has gone into the pockets of the poor. This cannot be called an unmixed blessing for it is in the nature of a "boom" which must eventually burst. Korean laborers who had been content with the equivalent of twenty *sen* a day were taken on by thousands at something like ten times that figure, and food provided. The Korean temperament, as we all know, is peculiarly susceptible to this sort of blandishment and, when away from home, excited by what must have appeared to be extravagant wages, it is all too probable that the surplus found its way with great celerity into the coffers of the wine merchants. But this is the least of the difficulties of the situation, for these men must have been more or less demoralized by the comparative Bohemianism of the new situation and they doubtless found it difficult to come back to their



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| 1 Wiju | 2 Keum-dong Island (Ginteido) | 3 Chung-gang Island (Chukotai) |
| 4 Sa-ha-chum (Shakatoto) | 5 U-juk Island (Osekito) | 6 Ku-ri Island (Kyurito) |
| 7 Ho-san, "Tiger Hill" (Ko-san) | 8 Yi-ja-wun (Risien) | 9 Su-gu-jin (Suikochin) |
| 10 A-ha (Aika) | 11 Tong-ch'un-gu (Tsuteuko) | 12 Ma-gu (Bako) |
| 13 Suk-sung (Sekijo) | 14 Tã-ru-hang (Tairoho) | 15 Hwa-mak-tang (Gamato) = Hama-tang |
| 16 Ch'un-ja-san (Tensisan) | 17 Ku-ryun-sung (Kyurenjo) | 18 Yalu or Aminok River |
| 19 Advance of the Imperial Guards | 20 Bridge crossed by the 2nd Division | 21 Bridge crossed by the Imperial Guards |
| 22 Bridge crossed by the 12th Division | AAA Position of the Russians at beginning of battle | NNN Position of the Japanese at beginning of battle |
| HH Russian batteries | -1 -1 -1 -1 Course of Japanese after first attack | MM Position of Russians in second part of the fight |
| K K K Position of Japanese in second part of the fight. | | |

Anbung-Wiju-Hama-tang battle.

twenty *sen* a day and live rationally again. As for the official class, things have been going from bad to worse. Their fixed salaries, in Korean currency, have steadily lost value with the rise of prices, and although the temporary enhancement of the value of Korean currency postponed the evil day, we see today that, with the fall of that currency to something like \$2.15 to the *yen*, their troubles are commencing again.

It is difficult to gauge the sentiment of Korean Officialdom in respect of this present conflict. The general drift of feeling seems to be in favor of the Japanese, but the Korean official is much more likely to ask your opinion as to the probabilities of the outcome of the war than to express a decided sympathy with either of the contestants. In fact, the Korean people come the nearest to observing strict neutrality, in this war, of all the peoples not directly concerned. Of course the "Powers" are all equally neutral but the "peoples" are not and, in truth, cannot be. Whether it be from financial, moral or sentimental considerations, each man who takes an intelligent interest in the conflict must inevitably side with one party or the other. There is no such thing as an equilibrium. Neutrality does not demand this, but only that people should refrain from such an expression of sympathy, whether by act or word, *as will give either belligerent definite aid*. We do not see how the statement recently published can be true, that it is not a break of neutrality for private parties to sell, to either belligerent, vessels to be used as transports or supply ships. It surely would be entirely opposed to the terms of the circular issued to American citizens by the President of the United States; or are we to understand that such pronouncements are merely academic in their character and intended rather to demonstrate the neutrality of the government making them than as commands literally binding on its subjects? Yes, the Koreans are very reticent about expressing a decided preference either way, but the usual form their questions take is "Will the Russians be down this way?" to which we make the interrogatory reply, "Do you want them to come?" and

to this question we never receive an unequivocal answer. Each man denies that his opinion or his individual preference is of any weight. This throws a curious light upon the effect which political life in Korea for the past four centuries has had upon the individual. The expression of political preferences has so often led to the executioner's block that it is a second nature to the Korean to refrain sedulously from committing himself to a definite policy until he sees which way things are going to turn out. This again leads to the interesting question of political leadership in Korea, but this would carry us too far afield to be relevant to the present crisis.

The Imperial Residence.

When the palace was burned, as described in our last issue, the Imperial family took up its residence in the Library building and other government buildings in the immediate vicinity. The order was immediately issued that the palace should be rebuilt and the Bureau of Public Buildings forthwith began drawing up the plans for the same. But a day or two later the Japanese authorities suggested to His Majesty that it might be well to remove to some other of the palaces in Seoul, since his present quarters were so circumscribed. The reply given was that the matter would be taken into consideration. The Bureau estimated that it would take some \$9,000,000 to build the whole palace as it was before, but as this was out of the question His Majesty ordered that \$300,000 should be put down to pay for the construction of the late Queen's Tablet House and the Emperor's private apartment, and two others. The carpenters said they could finish the two most important buildings in a month and they set to work to accomplish the difficult feat. Again the Japanese authorities, seconded by other representatives, urged that His Majesty transfer his court to the Chang-dok or "Old" Palace. To this an apparent consent was given and \$70,000 were ordered paid for repairs on that palace to put it in readiness for the Imperial residence; but this is as far as the matter went. No repairs were actually carried out. Meanwhile the rebuilding of the burned

palace was pushed with all the haste possible and in addition to the buildings inside the wall, work was vigorously carried on in putting up telegraph and telephone lines in its vicinity. The people generally supposed that the plan of removing to the Chang-dok palace would be carried out but when they saw that all the actual work was being done in and about the burned palace it became evident that it was the fixed determination of His Majesty to stay where he was until such time as he could return to the palace from which he had been driven by the fire. This was rendered all the more certain when the order was given to put down Yen 40,000 to pipe water into the palace from Sam-ch'ung-dong which lies between the Kyōng-bok and Chang-dok Palaces, a distance of nearly two miles across the city. This was in order to provide a sufficient water supply in case of fire. When this fact transpired the Japanese authorities immediately took pains to show that this was entirely useless and so the plan was dropped. The result of it all is that His Majesty has definitely determined to remain in Chong-dong in spite of urgent advice to the contrary. Of course if certain powerful parties should put the foot down and insist upon it the removal would take place, but it is probable that such compliance would be hardly worth the loss of good-will which it would cost.

Instead, however, of wasting money on the useless scheme of the water-works for the palace, the government has decided, at the urgent advice of the Japanese, to spend \$40,000 in repairing the streets of Seoul. It is surmised that most of this money will be spent on the roads in Chong-dong and vicinity and on those inside the South Gate. Of course it is a good thing to repair these roads for they have gotten into a shocking condition since they were put in good shape nine years ago, but no road can stand the wear and tear of these ox carts whose wheels, without tires, grind into the soil and plow it up in spite of everything. Nothing less than one of the old Roman roads would stand it more than two or three seasons. If the government should make a law that no ox cart should enter the city unless it had iron tires four inches broad the whole

difficulty would be solved. In fact money would be saved if the government should give to each cart owner half the cost of the tires as a bonus, for then, instead of digging up the roads, the carts would continually pack them harder. A pair of such tires would probably not cost more than eight yen and they would add so much to the life of the wheel and save the bullocks so much hard work that they would probably pay for themselves in six months or less. A little money spent in encouraging the cart owners to adopt this innovation would bring in splendid returns, for it would quadruple the life of the road. Otherwise it will be necessary to be forever repairing the roads, and as the carts do almost all the damage it would be possible to provide a fund for road improvement by levying a small tax on every loaded cart that enters the city. A tax of five cents on each loaded cart would do much toward keeping the roads in shape. That the condition of the roads is a disgrace cannot be denied and we trust the Japanese will keep agitating the matter until something is done to remedy the difficulty.

Railroad Construction. Until the time when the passage of the Yalu became a *fait accompli* the work on the railway north of Seoul was carried on with utmost vigor but when the Japanese advance into Manchuria was assured this work was prosecuted with more moderation. Some people said that it had stopped entirely, but this is a mistake. The work is going on steadily and it is affirmed that by August trains will be running between Seoul and Songdo except for the bridge across the Imjin River. This is twice as far as the distance between Seoul and Chemulpo and we fear this estimate is somewhat optimistic, but there is no question that the work will be pushed to completion in a comparatively short time. At the same time the work on the Seoul-Fusan railway line is progressing. Trains already run more than half way to Kong-ju.

The Wonsan Incident. A foreigner in Wonsan who witnessed the whole of the episode of the sinking of the Goyo Maru has sent the following interesting account of what happened in the town.

“On the morning of April 28th a Japanese squadron of twenty-two ships arrived in Wonsan. The following day eighteen of them sailed away leaving the transport *Kinshiu* with four torpedo-boats behind. Where the eighteen went we do not know. On Monday the 25th at 7:30 A. M. the transport with 150 soldiers from here sailed for Sungjin, four torpedo boats accompanying her. At 11:30 the same morning we sighted three large war-vessels and three smaller ones on the horizon. We all supposed it was the Japanese fleet returning, but about 12:15 P. M. two torpedo-boats came into the harbor flying the Russian flag. Word was at once sent around the settlement and a hurried exit of women and children was made to places of safety. The Japanese all leaped to their swords, the soldiers fell in on the double, and we on the hill shot up our British flag and “cleared for action.” The *Goyo Maru* of 360 tons had just come in from Sungjin. Thirty minutes were given her crew to leave the ship. In the hurried leave-taking the small boats were almost capsized. About one o’clock the torpedo-boat drew up and gave her a torpedo about amidships. We all watched the performance.

“What a day and night we had, expecting every minute to have the place shelled. Throughout the night every pass was guarded and a sharp look-out was kept on all the hills. There was not a woman or child either in Wonsan nor in the Japanese settlement. The whole place was shrouded in darkness; no lights were allowed.

“The question then arose what became of the transport and the four torpedo-boats that had left a little over two hours before the Russian squadron hove in sight, and where was the Japanese fleet? Some thought they had gone to Vladivostock but on Tuesday the 25th we saw them all returning from the south, eighteen in all. This was about 11 A. M. About 2 P. M. we saw the four torpedo-boats returning from Sungjin but no transport. The evening before, the weather was bad outside and the four torpedo-boats put into the harbor of Cha-ho for shelter. The people on the transport thought they could come into Wonsan all right, so in a few minutes

after leaving the torpedo-boats she ran into the arms of the Russians that had been in to see us. In brief, the Russians sunk her, and forty-five soldiers and nine of the crew were all that were saved. They landed at Sin-po off Puk-chun. A small steamer was sent for them last night (27th) and as yet she has not returned, so we have no particulars. The Japanese squadron is up north or at least sailed in that direction. We feel sure the Russian ships were coming in on Monday night. We saw lights of some ships coming in and prepared for the worst. What a time we had, getting all the women and children out of range of the guns; for the hill lies right between the Japanese settlement and the ships. Our fears were false, for it turned out to be a Japanese steamer in from the north and just how she missed the Russian boats we do not know unless it was the heavy fog and mist that saved her. One other Japanese coaster, if she has not made Fusan, is missing."

Another eyewitness of the Wonsan incident has sent the following account which gives some more interesting particulars.

"On Friday the 22nd a Japanese squadron composed of twenty fighting ships and two transports came into the harbor, remaining until noon on Saturday. Four torpedo-boats and one of the transports were left behind. These left Monday morning about six o'clock. At about ten o'clock I was at the house-site looking after some work there, and seeing a merchant vessel in the harbor went down to inquire about the mail. I also called at the office of the Commissioner of Customs. He remarked as I entered that two torpedo-boats had just come into the harbor. Both of us supposed that for some reason two of the Japanese flotilla which had left only a few hours before were returning, and we gave the matter no more thought. In a few moments, however, one of the Customs staff, who had been looking at the boats with a glass, came to the door and reported that they were flying the Russian flag. By this time the boats were near the Japanese merchant vessel, the Goyo Maru. The Commissioner began to look after getting the Customs books

to a place of safety and I went to his house to inform his wife of the situation and see that the flag was raised. My path was along the shore within a very short distance of the boats. I could hear the commands but of course could not understand what was said. It proved to be an order for all to leave the ship, as she was to be sunk in half an hour. This was really more time than was needed as the passengers and crew swung off the stern of the vessel into the life-boat, rather than go down the gang-way. They had all safely landed and I had returned to the custom-house before the torpedo was fired. The noise was not great but the steam and water thrown into the air were rather impressive. The vessel sank rapidly until her stern was under water, after which she sank rather slowly. I went out with Mr. W—— to get a picture of her prow which remained above water for a long time. Meanwhile, the Russian cruisers and small boats had come up behind an island just at the mouth of the harbor. We expected them to come in and bombard the town at any moment. The Japanese Consul ordered all the Japanese citizens to leave at once. This they did, as also did many of the Koreans from the native town. They swarmed to the neighboring villages where they remained till the next day, when the Japanese boats returned.

“The general impression, as the Russian boats steamed away without entering the harbor, was that they would return at night and bombard the town. I could see no reason, however, why a night attack would have any advantage over an attack by day and I believed then the incident was closed. I went to bed early and slept unusually well.”

Note on Hai-ju.

Mr. S—— and I recently held a class for ten days in Hai-ju and in our rambles about the old town came upon a few things which suggested these notes. Just

outside the South Gate stands a monument enclosed in a neat little—house is not the word I want, for it is too pretentious. “Shed” will not do for it is not sufficiently dignified, and although it looks more like a shrine than anything else, “shrine” would not answer as it is not a place of worship, so I will just dub it a building erected after the approved pattern, with slats in front so that the passer-by may read the inscription chiselled in Chinese characters upon the granite shaft which is about eight feet high by two in breadth. The inscription states that the city of Hai-ju was built in the third year of **공양왕 恭讓王** which was the 24th year of Emperor **太祖** of China, that is a little over 500 years ago. The city was moved to its present site in the time of **Se-jo Tǎ-wang 世祖大王** who reigned 437 years ago. The name of the governor who built the present city was Yi Ch’ün-po. The words Yi Ch’ün-po mean in the vernacular 2,000 paces and it is said that the wall was so built as to measure 2,000 paces round, but the monument states the distance is 2,600 paces. The wall is built like other city walls of the orient being about twenty feet high and broad enough on top for half a dozen persons to walk abreast. Viewed from the top of the wall one would judge that the number of the houses outside the walls is about the same as the number inside. There are supposed to be about 3,000 houses and the population is estimated at about 20,000, as many of the houses are large. The officials report only 941 houses in their tabulation which serves as a basis for taxation. Some say that 3,000 houses are taxed and that the officials eat the tax on 2,059 and send the balance to Seoul but others, better informed, report that this is not so but the tax due on the 941 houses is divided among the 3,000, making the tax very light. While on the subject of taxes it is in order to say that the Korean people certainly have no reason to complain about being burdened, as six Korean dollars will pay the taxes on the house and land of a farmer owning enough land to yield a comfortable support for an ordinary family. The city lies 10 *li* from the sea and the reason given for not build-

ing on the sea shore is that although many advantages would accrue to the citizens by so doing, pirates are so numerous and their incursions so much dreaded that it is considered best to forego the delights of sea bathing and boating as well as the more substantial commercial advantages of a sea port town. A beautiful stream runs past the city and it is noticeable that whereas in America its banks would be lined with houses, only occasional huts are found near the stream, which flows over a very rocky bed. This stream suggests one of Henry Van Dyke's little rivers as it rushes tumultuously along "singing always the same song, and that the favorite." In America you would expect to find trout in such a stream in the pools below the numerous waterfalls but there are only a very few small fish, a little larger than minnows. They are characterized by that "never get in a hurry air which so permeates Korea that one is not surprised to see it even in the fish. Instead of scuttling away when we threw a stone into the pool they came swimming up to see what it was and their ideas of the proper way to enjoy life suggested the slow-going oriental in his flowing robes. There are several pagodas near the city but no one was able to tell me the date of their erection. The consensus of opinion however seems to be that they were built at the time of Bhuddism's invasion of the country and it is evident that they are of many years standing, from the fact that the characters chiselled on them have been obliterated by wind and weather except those at the top which are protected by the broad eaves. We were told by several residents that the site of the present city was formerly taken up by Bhuddist temples, which were removed at the time the city was founded. Ten li from the present site is a temple said to be more than 500 years old. We only heard of this temple the evening before we came away and so were unable to visit it. Besides this there is another building said to have been erected by the Bhuddist priests in the long ago to be used as a granary. It is only a few minutes walk from the west gate and is near the stream. It is ninety feet long, fifteen feet wide and eighteen feet high.

Viewed from a distance it resembles a huge grave as it is covered with earth and overgrown with grass. It is lined with stone and the roof is supported by twelve stone arches the stones in these arches being about three by one and a half, by one and a fourth feet, laid horizontally edge to edge. Huge slabs of stone, eight feet long by about two feet wide stretch from one arch to the other constituting the ceiling and the roof. It is the only roof I have seen supported without timbers. This building has been used for some time by the city officials as an ice house and is well adapted to such use being very cool inside. Such a building is made possible at Hai-ju by the abundance of stone found there. No one can visit the city without being impressed by its rocky character. There are stones everywhere, of all sizes and shapes. Some of the city streets are bounded by stone walls six feet high and the walls around many of the houses are simply stones piled up without mortar or even mud filling. Not far from the giant cave is a shrine called Chyung-sung-myo or the Shrine of the Patriots. The inscription on the monument before it states that it was erected in the 60th year of the Mings or about 475 years ago by the gentry of Hai-ju in memory of two men named respectively Pāk Ki and Suk Choé. These men lived about 1122 B. C. and were contemporaries of Samson. They were Chinese noblemen who refused to be comforted when Mu Wang came and took the throne from their sovereign. The story runs that they went away to a mountain called Su Yang and there after living for a time on the plant known as *고사리* or bracken, i. e. *pteris aquilina*, died of grief and starvation. Some 478 years ago the emperor of China sent an envoy to inquire if there was a mountain in Korea called Su Yang and if so whether a shrine had been erected there to the memory of these patriots. The King hearing that a negative reply would provoke the Imperial displeasure replied that there was such a mountain and that such a shrine had been erected, giving orders at the same time that it be built at once. At that time a Mr. Ko was the owner of this mountain and his ancestors had been

buried there for many generations so the King gave him another mountain in exchange, the present "Nam San," whither he removed the remains of his ancestors. The shrine of the Patriots is built on a beautiful spot on the Slope of Su Yang mountain overlooking the city. On either side is a noble tree of the variety known as "neutti" or *Sophora Japonica*. These trees are said to have been planted at the time the shrine was erected and after four centuries they have attained a girth of thirteen feet four inches. This is said to be the hardest wood found in Korea and is used for making cart wheels. A felloe seven inches thick will last two years, it is said, even when used constantly on stony roads. Inside the shrine are the tablets made just like those found in the Confucian temples and on the tablet are inscribed the names of the patriots with the posthumous titles conferred by the Emperor of China. Before these tablets sacrifices are offered twice per year, in the Spring and Fall, when raw meat, uncooked rice, fruit, nuts and liquor is offered. Looking at the matter from one view-point it seems rather disrespectful to offer food which is not edible, and the custom of offering cooked food as is common in ancestral worship would seem more sensible and more respectful, but the Koreans explain their custom by saying that it would never do to offer to the shades of those so illustrious the same food offered to ordinary mortals.

Hai-ju, May 3rd.

S. F. MOORE.

War Anecdotes.

Map Making. The story is told of a Japanese who lived in Fusan for many years prior to the great invasion of 1592. He acquired the Korean language so perfectly that no one would suspect his nationality. Dressed as a Korean Buddhist monk he wandered all over the country. Finally he came to the

Chin-gwan monastery outside the Northwest Gate of Seoul and there took up his quarters for a time. Now in those days the monasteries had the best maps in all Korea because the monks needed them in their begging expeditions about the country. This Japanese also was an expert map maker and in his rambles about the neighborhood he came upon a place on the great Peking road between Koyang and P'aju which he saw would be a most important strategic point in case of war. He immediately set to work to make a very complete map of the whole district but, curiously enough, he left out of it all mention or notice of this important point which was situated near the village of Pyuk-che-gwan. The monks at the monastery were astonished and delighted with the map which was the most perfect they had ever seen and they cherished it as a precious heirloom. The monk disappeared, but a few years later the invasion took place. The Japanese, at first successful, were at last forced to retreat from Pyeng-yang before the great Chinese general Yi Yü-song. They came streaming south in disorder but after crossing the Imjin river they enjoyed a little respite, because the Chinese general refused to take his army across it unless the Koreans would build a bridge. The latter, enraged at seeing the hated Japanese escape, went to work and built a suspension bridge, the first one of its size probably that was ever built, and the Chinese army of over 20,000 men crossed it and resumed the chase. The vanguard came to the vicinity of the Chin-gwan monastery and there demanded to see what maps they had. The fine map was brought out and the Chinese made a careful copy of it which they placed in the hands of Gen. Yi Yü-song. The Chinese army, relying on this map, pushed forward with confidence but at the critical point they were surprised by the Japanese who lay in ambush and were driven back with terrible loss. The brother of Gen. Yi Yü-song fell in this encounter. It was found that this important location had been left blank on the map, and Gen. Yi sent for the monks of Chin-gwan monastery. He questioned them closely about the man who had made the map and cleverly decided,

from several circumstances, that the man must have been a Japanese and that he had left the map imperfect on purpose to embarrass an enemy at some future date.

This was long centuries ago, but a story is current among the Koreans that a few years ago a Japanese in Peking conversant both with the Chinese and French languages, disguised himself as a Chinaman and cultivated the friendship of a Russian cartographer who had been sent to secure a detailed map of Manchuria. He joined the Russian in his work and acted as his secretary or helper and was so skillful with his pen that the Russian entrusted the delicate work of drawing the map to him. As a result the Japanese secured for himself a very perfect map while the copy which he prepared for the Russian was purposely filled with most perplexing inaccuracies, but so cleverly concealed as to escape any but the most critical examination. This map was published and put in the hands of the Russian officers, but since the war broke out it has been found that the most curious mistakes are made as to routes and distances. The Russian who was supposed to have made it underwent a strict examination in the course of which he confessed that he had delegated most of the work to a Chinaman in his company. At about the same time a Japanese spy was caught and on his person was found a map which was so nearly identical with the "doctored" map that the secret was out. The Russian was thrown into prison and desperate efforts were made to make a new and correct map before the necessary movement of troops but it caused a deal of serious trouble and delay. We do not at all vouch for the historicity of these stories but we do not doubt that things stranger than this have occurred.

**The Russian
Dash at Anju.**

Early in April a force of Russian cavalry, probably ignorant as yet of the Japanese victory at the Yalu, crossed that river opposite Kang-gye and pushed south by way of Chang-jin, Yüng-win and Täk-ch'ün and on the 10th appeared before Anju on the opposite bank of the

Ar.

river at 7.50 A. M. This company consisted of some 200 cavalry and were opposed by something over fifty Japanese who formed the garrison of Anju. A skirmish took place which lasted from one o'clock till seven in the afternoon. Four Japanese were killed and six were wounded. The Russians suffered some twenty casualties but how many were actually killed is not definitely known. That night the Russians retired. The Japanese captured one Russian small officer and from papers on his person discovered that he belonged to a body of some 500 cavalry. The Russians cut the telegraph lines before retiring. It was found out later that a considerable force of Russians numbering something over 2,500 were lying at Unsan but the Japanese made no attempt to dislodge them. The telegraphic communication was reestablished on the 11th at nine A. M.

**The Russians burn
the Ham-heung
Bridge.**

On the 19th inst. the Russian force on the eastern coast came south as far as Ham-heung and entered the wall. They had a two hours fight with the Pyengyang soldiers stationed there, during which time one Korean soldier was killed and one Russian severely wounded. The next morning the Russians went outside the West gate and fired some 300 of the people's houses, and destroyed three telegraph poles. They also set fire to the celebrated Man-se-kyo or "Ten-thousand Year Bridge." This bridge is said to be 300 *kan* long or nearly half a mile. Fourteen *kan* of the bridge were destroyed. After this the Russians retired to Chang-jin.

**The Battle of
Kang-gye.**

On the first of May the battle at the Yalu was not the only one that was fought. Another one was taking place in the town of Kang-gye between Russian soldiers and Korean tiger-hunters. Some days before this, 400 Russians had crossed the Yalu at Chosan and had marched to Kang-gye. There they took up their quarters and began to treat the people badly. They seized their grain and horses, violated women and committed other excesses, until the people could stand it no longer.

So the prefect, Kim Chā-ok, summoned some 200 Korean soldiers enlisted from the tiger-hunters and attacked the Russians. Six Russians were killed. The people rose in revolt and aided the 200 soldiers and the Russians found the place too hot for them; so they dropped such part of their booty as they could not easily carry and decamped.

Fifteen Years Among the Top-knots.

Fifteen Years Among the Top-knots; by MRS. LILLIAN HORTON UNDERWOOD, M.D. Published by The American Tract Society, New York, U. S. A. \$1.50 net.

We have had the pleasure of examining this new book on Korea and we found it all that was to have been expected from the long residence of the author in Korea, her intimate and sympathetic acquaintance with Koreans of the highest and lowest classes as well as those of the middle class, and her well known literary taste. It is a book not only *about* the Koreans but *for* them, in the sense ✓ that from an inside standpoint the author has successfully attempted to reveal the genuine Korean in a way to make us think of him as a fellow-being rather than as an oriental curiosity. We congratulate the author upon having adopted the style of personal narrative, for by so doing she has given us not a book of generalities about the Korean but a carefully arranged series of particular incidents which came under her own observation. This gives the book the same weight and authority which attaches to the evidence of a witness in court who has sworn to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

It is with great satisfaction that we see a steady though slow growth of a literature on Korea written by people who have lived here long enough to have renounced the desire to say something startling about a nation whose characteristics and attainments are not

on the dramatic order. This book is a notable addition to the list and we recommend it without reserve to anyone who wants to know the facts about Korea.

News Calendar.

With the resignation of Yi Keun-ho, brother of Yi Keun-tāk, from the Governorship of Kyūng-geui Province the last semblance of the Yi Keun-tāk regime disappeared.

There seems to be some difficulty still about the government of the coolies in Mokpo. There are three sources of authority each of which claims the right to control the coolies, namely the Superintendent of Trade, the Customs, and the Tā-sang Company which is a sort of guild whose president is one Chin Sū-yun. At present the Customs have charge of the coolies but the Tā-sang Company has been appealing to the Foreign Office to secure control of the matter. It would seem by far the best policy to let the Customs have charge of the whole business as it would then be carried on in a judicial manner.

The introduction of the opium habit into Korea threatens to become a grave matter. The hold that it is getting upon the Koreans is very strong and stringent measures ought to be adopted for its suppression. On April 25th some policemen raided an opium den in the center of Seoul in order to arrest some Koreans who were known to be breaking the law, but the Chinese forcibly opposed them and a fight ensued in which the police were successful, arresting several offenders and lodging them in jail. The policemen were highly complimented and rewarded by their Chief. Notice was sent to the Chinese Legation requesting that the Chinese authorities take steps to abate the nuisance and stating that sharp and decisive measures would be adopted by the police in dealing with the matter. The native papers comment facetiously upon the sorry plight of the peddler's guild and suggest that their clubs be cut up into fireword.

About April 28th the police department issued an important order, namely that the *demi monde* of Seoul reside in a separate district in the town and not be scattered all over the city. In other words it ordered the establishment of something corresponding to the Japanese Yoshiwara. The vicinity designated is Si-dong.

A Korean living outside the South Gate offered to sell to a Japanese 800 blank nickels. The offer was apparently accepted but someone else who was in the secret divulged it to the police and the Korean was arrested.

The difficulties that have arisen between the Seoul Electric Company and the His Majesty the Emperor relative to the mortgage on the electric road have been settled by a new arrangement whereby the His Majesty is to pay Yen 750,000 and the two parties assume equal joint partnership in the business.

Kang Sŭk-ho, who has been for many years the head eunuch in the palace and who has exercised far greater power than many people suppose, has been sent to the country in disgrace because of his strong affinity for Russia and Russian interests in Korea.

The Korean Government gave consent to the Japanese proposition of cutting timber along the road to Pyeng-yang to furnish poles for a supplementary telegraph line.

A few days ago a lamp in the Central Prison, Seoul, smoked and the chimney was blackened, but strangely enough the lamp-black formed the exact picture of a man, down to the finest details, so the story runs. The jailer was deeply impressed with this inexplicable phenomenon and averred that it foretold some form of good luck to the prisoners. There is a small shrine in connection with the jail and offerings were instantly made before it.

The estimated revenue for 1904 is \$14,214,537, and the expenditure \$14,214, 298, leaving a surplus of \$275. The Imperial household will receive from this amount \$1,013,359; the War Department will receive \$4,675,251 of which \$451,605 will go to the Navy. The revenue this year is estimated to be \$3,448,458 in excess of that of last year.

The Tonghak element in the north has taken full advantage of the state of unrest to commit excesses in many places. The people have been as much disturbed by them as by the operations of the war. In many districts houses have been deserted in great numbers and frightful suffering has been endured because of these conscienceless brutes.

Yi To-jā resigned the Ministry of Home Affairs on May 3rd and was succeeded by Yi Yong-t'ā.

A Korean named Kim Yun-jung went to America several years ago with his son and set to work to obtain an education. He had no money to start in with but his tireless energy found a way and at last he graduated from college. The attention of the Korean government was called to this man by the American authorities and as a result he has been appointed Secretary of the Korean Legation in Washington.

When the news of the Japanese victory at the Yalu was received in Seoul, Yun Ung-yŭl the Minister of War went to the Japanese Legation and congratulated the Japanese Minister upon this important event.

The Police Department has interfered to keep down the price of shoes in Seoul. The price for a good pair had gone up to the phenomenal figure of 10,000 cash or \$4.00; the Department ordered that ordinary shoes be sold for \$1.60 and the best ones for \$2.40. The wet-weather shoes were allowed twenty cents more. As the shoe business is no longer a monopoly in Seoul we do not see how the government can regulate the price.

The Japanese people in Korea have urged that the following places be thrown open for foreign residence. In Ham-gyung Province, Ham-heung, Kyōng-sŭng; in Kang-wŭn Province, Wŭn-ju, Kim-sŭng; in Kyōng-sang Province, Taiku, Chin-ju, Mi-ryang, Ye-ch'ŭn; in Chulla, Province Chun-ju, Na-ju, Nam-p'yŭng, Kwang-ju; in Ch'ung-

ch'ūng Province, Kong-ju, Pu-yū, Chung-ju ; in Kyūng-geui Province, Su-wūn, Song-do ; in Whang-hā Province, Hā-ju, Whang-ju ; in P'yūng-an Province, An-ju.

On May 6th the Japanese held a great festival in honor of the Wi-ju victories. The main scene of the festivities was the grounds of the Chang-dok Palace. The streets were alive that night with waving lanterns and crowds in high spirits. All the Korean Ministers of State participated in the festivities at the "Old Palace" grounds.

On May 4th forty more Koreans started for Hawaii to engage in work on the sugar plantations.

The Government has remitted the taxes on the fields which Koreans have surrendered to the Seoul Fusan R. R. Co. outside the South Gate.

On the 10th inst forty-one men and four boys started for Honolulu to engage in work.

Yi Kang-ho has submitted to the Privy Council a scheme for a system of common schools for Korea. It proposes one primary school for each 200 or 300 houses in Seoul ; the transformation of all the present common schools into intermediate schools ; compulsory attendance from the eighth year ; a revision of the curriculum ; the appointment of school trustees from each ward to manage the affairs of the school in their respective districts ; the listing of the residents of each district into five grades according to financial standing of each, for the purpose of proportional school taxation ; the limiting of the monthly expenses of each school to \$50 ; books to be provided by the Educational Department ; the collection of ten times the maximum tax from any man who employs private tutors for his children ; the collection of double tax from those who keep their sons out of school to work ; the setting aside of special school lands in the country for the support of country schools ; the change of the present country schools into intermediate schools ; a biennial inspection of all country schools by the Provincial Governors.

On the 19th of April a Russian force appeared at Chosan on the Yalu about 60 *li* above Wiju and took possession of all arms stored there by the Korean Government for use by the Border Guard, and then they retired into Manchuria.

On May 10th the Emperor put forth an edict calling attention to the unsatisfactory condition of the government and using the following language :

We have often urged the officials to greater diligence in the performance of their duties but to no avail and so the government business has been postponed and obstructed and the laws of the land are in abeyance. We recognize the limitations of our own virtue and yet on what grounds can you venture to disregard the plain demands of duty? Our express commands are treated

merely as literary productions, to be read indeed but not to be acted upon and thus a condition of things has arisen which calls for stern censure. What is now needed is that you should awake from your lethargy and take our words to heart, not overcome with shame at our rebuke but stimulated to renewed activity thereby.

When the officials received this expression of Imperial displeasure an instant and universal murmur of contrition went up from them and memorial after memorial was presented expressing inability to perform the functions of office with acceptability and craving leave to resign. The emperor consented to this only in the case of the Home Minister whose vacated place was filled by Yi Yong-t'ā a favorite of Lady Om. And so everything went on as before.

The Chinese Minister asks the removal of the prefect of Kan-do, an island in the Tuman River, on the ground that he does not treat the Chinese residents of that island properly. It was long in dispute whether the island belonged to China or Korea and so Chinese continued to live on it even after the Ussuri district was ceded to Russia.

The Korean Minister to Peking urges that Korean consuls be placed in Tientsin, Taku and Peking.

The government has at last put down the money to pay the returning expenses of the Korean Minister to Russia and he will shortly start from that post.

Two of the buildings erected by the Russian Timber Company at Yongsampo have been "accidentally" destroyed by fire.

It is said that a Japanese Language School established by a wealthy Korean in Chūng-ju, Ch'ung-ch'ūng Province is in a flourishing condition. A Japanese teacher is employed and the students number forty.

Rev. Mr. Honda the well-known Methodist college president in Tokyo has recently come to Seoul to look into the matter of Christian work among the Japanese in this city. He is accompanied by Rev. H. Kihara of the Methodist Church who will remain to carry on the work.

The Congregational Church in Japan may also send a man to carry on a similar work. They will be heartily welcomed by those who realize what a broad and promising field of Christian work there is among the Japanese of Seoul and Chemulpo.

On May 25th Mr. and Mrs. Mimashi gave a garden party at the Japanese Consulate. The day was a delightful one and the company came prepared to enjoy a most pleasant hour on the fine lawn behind the Consulate building. A cozy pavilion had been erected beneath which the table was spread.

On May 19th the German Minister Herr von Saldern gave a large lawn party at the legation. A numerous and brilliant company were present including many officers from the German war-vessel at Chemulpo. The guests were entertained with music by the band from the ship. A very successful photograph was secured which will be a lasting memento of a very pleasant afternoon.

About the 5th inst the Japanese Minister communicated with the Foreign Office regarding the need of repairing the streets and the drainage system of Seoul. The different points were as follows:

(1) The drains should all be cleared of obstructions so that water can flow freely through them.

(2) All garbage and refuse should be removed without the wall.

(3) All barracks for Korean or Japanese soldiers should be cleaned and all drains within a distance of sixty *kan* (450 feet) should be carefully repaired.

(4) Public latrines should be constructed at many points in the city for the use of the people.

(5) The removal of night-soil from the city should be regulated and carried out under the surveillance of the police.

(6) Every house should be compelled to use lime to disinfect the cesspools.

In all but the last of these points the Japanese and Korean authorities will share the expense, at least this is the proposition of the Japanese authorities. It is urged that the Home Office or the Police Bureau should take the work in hand aided by the Japanese Consul and the gendarmes. It has been decided to spend \$40,000 on this work and it was begun on the 27th inst.

On May 4th when the Japanese Minister had audience with His Majesty the latter asked all about the Japanese victories in the north and expressed satisfaction at the result.

Yi Chi-yong, the envoy to Japan, left Tokyo on the 5th and arrived in Seoul on the 16th.

On May 5-6 the third son of the German Emperor, Prince Adalbert, made a visit to Seoul *incognito*. He is nineteen years old and an officer in the German Navy. He was accompanied by some officers from the German war-vessel *Geier*. We understand that His Majesty was disappointed at not meeting the Prince but under the circumstances the German authorities did not deem it advisable to arrange an audience.

On the 19th inst. quite an exodus of foreigners from Korea took place. Seventeen residents of Seoul, Pyengyang, Sün-ch'ün, Chun-ju etc., including several children, sailed for America by the *Dairei Maru* an excellent little boat of the Osaka Shosen line. The party consisted of Mrs Ross and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Donham and child, Miss Dr. Ingold, Miss Best, Rev. and Mrs. Noble and three children, Lera and Lawrence Avison and Helen Hulbert. Most of them are intending to catch the "Korea" sailing from Yokohama on June 1st. Mrs. Campbell also left Seoul on the 24th inst. for Shanghai, and from there she will go to America *via* Europe.

We are given definitely to understand that Rev. and Mrs. Bunker and Dr. and Mrs. Scranton, Mrs. Scranton Sr. and Miss Augusta are to come to Korea either this Summer or early in the Autumn. Miss Augusta Scranton has been engaged to teach the Foreign Childrens' School in Seoul.

The Japanese Minister has extended thanks to the Korean authori-

ties for the courtesy shown by the prefect of Quelpart to some Japanese who were wrecked on that island recently.

In Tuk-sūm, on the river, a child was seen forcing his way through the wattle fence about a house. He was seized but some of the residents of the town pitied the child and argued that he was probably only trying to get into his own home, since no one would open the gate for him. When the child was examined, however, it was discovered that he was the tool of a powerful gang of robbers. Through information supplied by the boy a number of important arrests were made.

The Russian Minister in Peking cautioned the Korean Minister there that all Korean vessels should be careful to fly the Korean flag for otherwise they might be taken for Japanese boats and suffer damage at the hands of the Russians.

The Emperor sent a gift of Yen 100 to each of the foreign Legations whose guards assisted at the time of the Palace fire. The Italian Minister presented the money to Dr. Avison to be used towards founding a Pasteur Institute.

Min Tā-sik, the son of Min Yong-jun, was arrested for gambling in a disreputable dive in An-dong and \$2,000 were seized. He was detained for two days in durance vile.

In pursuance of the order that no soldier should pawn his uniform or accoutrements, a soldier was sentenced to one year in the chain-gang for hypothecating his clothes for sixty cents and investing the same in the contents of the flowing bowl.

For the past few years it has been customary for prefects to pay their own traveling expenses in going down to their posts but because of the trouble in the north and the need of quick despatch the Government has decided to cover these expenses.

The people of Kyōng-sūng near the Tuman River have been having a hard time at the hands of the Russians if the statements of the native press are to be credited. It is stated the people have been forced to furnish food for man and horse without receiving any equivalent and that the people have been beaten and driven out so that a majority of the houses within the wall are empty.

The town of Mu-san on the upper Tuman has suffered severely at the hands of Chinese raiders and Russian Cossacks. Three hundred of the houses have been burned and robbery has been the order of the day.

The notes of the Dai Ichi Ginko are a success as appears from the fact that up to the end of March the amount put in circulation was Yen 1,233,535.

The examination for graduation from the Imperial Middle School began on the 12th inst. There are twenty candidates for graduation.

Heretofore each of the schools has been accustomed to compose a national song for its own use but as these seldom agreed with the proper canons of literature as held by poetical experts in Korea, the Educational Department has provided a national song which is to be substituted for these various songs. It runs as follows "May the Supreme Ruler help the Emperor; and may his blessed life be peaceful. May blessings

be ocean wide and mountain high. May his dignity and power be renowned throughout the world and may his felicity not wane for a thousand—nay, ten-thousand years. May the Supreme Ruler help the Emperor."

On Saturday evening the 28th inst. the men of the British Legation Guard gave an entertainment at the barracks. It was largely attended and proved a distinct success. It was given to celebrate the third anniversary of the commissioning of the *Cressy*. The concert was made up of musical and other selections both by the marines and by residents of Seoul. Specially noteworthy was the exhibition of a marvelous invention, called, a "spoutophone," by "Professor" Deluhry, which brought down the house. The men are to be congratulated on the possession of so much musical and histrionic talent within their own ranks.

A Korean has just arrived in Seoul from Wiju where he together with a crowd of other Koreans, witnessed the battle from an elevation behind that town. He brings many interesting particulars of the fight, but as he comes at the moment of our going to press we are obliged to leave this matter over until our next issue.

Yun Eung-yul resigned the position of Imperial Treasurer and Pak Che-hong took his place.

The Japanese have seized and taken Yi Kyung-jik, the prefect of Yong-chun, to Antung and are calling him to account for alleged aid which he gave to the Russians.

The Seoul Fusan R. R. Co. have consented to make a detour around the prefectural town of Yong-dong instead of going through it.

The Korean government has about decided to grant the Japanese request for fishing rights along the whole western coast of Korea.

Twelve Koreans have been recently graduated from the private Japanese school called the Kyung-sung Hak-kyo.

The Emperor has commanded that the record of attendance of officials at their various posts be sent in for his inspection every day.

Min Yong-whan has resigned the portfolio of education and Yi Chā-geuk has been appointed in his place.

A tennis tournament has been arranged among the gentlemen players of Seoul, with sixteen entries. There will be both single and double contests. Tennis racquets will form the prize.

The Minister of Education announced that all Koreans who had studied abroad should come to the department on a certain day and those who had not received diplomas abroad would be examined and would receive certificates according to their attainments.

The Chief of Police has warned all country-men who have not important business in Seoul to leave for their homes. The planting season has come and the farm is the place when they are needed most. He warns them that if they remain in idleness here they will be arrested.

The Japanese authorities have asked the use of the glass manufactory at Yong-san. We are glad to see the building put to some use. A glass-factory is about as useful a thing in Korea as an air-ship factory

would be, unless the sapient originators of the glass scheme expect to melt quartz crystals to make glass.

Since the war now has crossed into Manchurian territory forty-one Japanese who acted as Korean interpreters have been relieved of active duty.

A telegram has been received by the government stating that four leaders of Tong-haks have been arrested in Chun-ju.

Upon the return of Yi Chi-yong he gave to His Majesty a detailed account of his conversations with various Japanese statesmen and gave a careful exposition of their ideas as to the Japanese-Korean relations in view of the present conflict.

Mr. Makashima the teacher of the Imperial Japanese language school in Seoul has resigned and Mr. Kawayama has been employed by the government in his place.

Because of the cordiality with which he treated the Japanese, Chin Heui-sung the chief of police at Hāju has, at the suggestion of the Japanese Minister, been made prefect of Chā-ryŭng.

The people in the north along the Tuman and head waters of the Yalu are having a very hard time at the hands of the Cossacks. Hundreds of people have fled from Kapsan, Samson, Musan, Chongsung and other border towns to the mountains for safety. This has given opportunity for Korean robbers in addition to the exactions of the Cossacks. The half grown barley crops have been cut down in many places to feed the Russian horses.

The people of Pakchung, Kilju, Sungjin and Taichu are not in love with the telegraph. They thought it was because of the telegraph that the Russians invaded their towns : so they tore down the wires and assert that they will not allow them to be erected again under any circumstances.

The Korean Government has sent to Japan for a supply of fire engines and other apparatus for use in the palace.

In order to complete the extra telegraph line between Seoul and Pyang-yang the Japanese ask the Koreans to furnish 130 telegraph poles which are still lacking.

The Korean people in the north and west assert that if the actions of the Russians in northern Korean are a fair sample of the Russian army discipline, the Russians will sooner or later come to grief.

A large number of extraordinary taxes have been remitted on the island of Quelpart.

The department of Agriculture, Commerce and Public Works has announced that the constitution and regulation of the various guilds of the city must be revised and the business put on a more definite footing.

Two Russian spies in the garb of Korean beggars were captured in Pyeng Yang and were brought to Seoul. We do not know what disposition the Japanese will make of them.

Ha Sang-geui the Chemulpo superintendent of trade has been severely reprimanded for not having greeted Yi Chi-Yong at the port upon his return from Japan.

The law department has asked the foreign office to demand of the Japanese authorities the punishment of a Japanese subject who recently killed a Korean in the town Ch'ung-ju.

Mr. Min Yung-so has been appointed Chief of the Privy Council.

Han Kyu-sul has resigned all office because of the death of his aged mother.

On the 28th instant the Foreign Office announced to the various Foreign Representatives that it had formally broken off treaty relations with Russia because of irregularities and oppressive acts on the part of the Russian government toward Korea. At the same time all private or semi-private contracts and concessions of whatever kind or nature are declared null and void. The reason assigned for the latter is that the concessions were obtained in an illegal manner and by indirection.

The Korean government has sent word to its Legation in Berlin ordering that the body of the late Secretary Hong Hyun-sik be buried there and not transported here.

Because of financial difficulties the *Whang-sung Sin-mun* suspended publication on the 18th inst. But His Majesty presented them with a building near the center of Seoul free of rent and the paper resumed publication on the 27th.

KOREAN HISTORY.

This year saw the first embassy to Europe appointed in the person of Cho Sin-heui but owing to his illness his place was filled by Pak Che-sun who started on his mission but never got further than Hong-kong. It is probable that it was through Chinese influence that he got no further. The fourth moon of the year saw the death of the aged Dowager Queen Cho, through whose influence the present king came to the throne. She was buried with royal honors and the people assumed mourning for one year.

Serious difficulties arose in regard to the fisheries in the south. The Japanese had been accorded the right to fish in Korean waters, but on the island of Quelpart a curious custom prevails. The women do the fishing. They enter the water entirely nude and gather shell-fish. All males are prohibited by law from coming within sight of the fishing-grounds. The Japanese fishing-boats, however, did not hesitate to pass into these prohibited waters and as a result the Koreans were deprived of the means of livelihood.

The year 1891 beheld the elevation to power of Min Yong-jun a man who championed the most conservative principles of the retrogressive party in power. The king's son by the concubine Lady Kang was made Prince Eui-wha. Corruption in official circles was accentuated by the lessening of the term of office of country prefects thereby entailing fresh burdens on the people, for they had to provide each prefect with money to liquidate the debt he had incurred in purchasing the position. There was an instant and loud outcry from all sides. The powers that be saw that the limit of the people's endurance had been passed and they hastened to revoke the law. This same year a consulate was founded at Tientsin and Yi Myŏng-sang became the first incumbent.

Another sign of retrogression was the execution of six men charged with being accessory to the insurrection of 1882 although eleven years had passed since that event.

The year 1892 passed without witnessing many events of

special importance, excepting that the state of things kept getting worse and worse. It was a time during which the country was ripening for the great disturbances of the following year. History shows that when the Korean people are treated with anything like a fair degree of justice they are loyal and peaceful. So long as the Korean is called upon to pay not more than three or four times the legal rate of tax he will endure it quietly and there will be no talk of seditious sects arising; but the people are well aware that they themselves form the court of final appeal and when all other means fail they are not slow to adopt any means of righting their wrongs.

In 1893 Korea began to reap what she had sown in 1891 and 1892. Having sown the wind she began to reap the whirlwind. The whole province of P'yŭng-an was in a ferment. Insurrections occurred in Kang-gye, Song-ch'ŭn, Ham-jong and in other parts of the province. But the difficulty was not confined to the North. The sect called the Tong-hak which had arisen in 1864 began to show its head in the south again. Rumors began to multiply in Seoul that they were coming to the capital in great numbers to drive out the Japanese and other foreigners. The government despatched O Yun-jung, a civilian, to pacify them and for a time quiet was preserved, but in March threatening placards were fastened to foreigners' gates in Seoul inveighing against the Christian religion and warning foreigners to leave the country at once. It was the general feeling that although serious trouble was not likely to occur in Seoul it would be well to be in a state of preparedness in case the Tong-hak saw fit to put their words to the test of action.

At this time the Queen was extremely well-disposed toward that class of female spiritual mediums called *mudang*, and one of them was elevated to the rank of Princess. A Korean, An Hyo-je, who memorialized the king against such practices, was overwhelmed with obloquy and was banished to the island of Quelpart. Min Yong-jun had taken advantage of his high position to add private profit to public usefulness and loud complaints were heard on all sides against him and against others of the same name. Insurrections of greater or less degree occurred in different parts of the country

and it seemed as if Korea were on the verge of anarchy. It can hardly be gainsaid that this state of affairs was the legitimate outcome of pro-Chinese agitation and was directly in line with immemorial custom in China. Nothing could be truer than that Korea needed reforming. The government found it necessary to deal with great severity in some cases. Four prefects were taken to the center of the city and publicly beaten and then banished. Even Min Yong-jun had to go through the form of punishment in this public way, for the people of the capital were so incensed against him that an insurrection seemed imminent unless they were appeased. The Songdo people revolted against the extortion that was practiced against them but they were overcome and their ginseng was taken away from them by Kim Se-geui, the right hand man of Min Yong-jun.

Late in the year the Tong-hak made a startling proclamation which they secretly nailed to the gate of the governor's yamen in Chŭn-ju. It called upon all right-minded men to join in the march on the capital and the extirpation of the foreigners. This seemed more tangible than the former rumors and foreign men-of-war began to congregate at Chemulpo for the protection of their nationals in Seoul. Hundreds of Japanese left the city and hurried to Chemulpo for safety. A force of Korean infantry marched southward to head off the revolutionists but they were easily defeated and their arms and accoutrements fell into the hands of the enemy.

It was quite evident that the Korean government was without the means or the men to cope with such determined opposition. This deplorable state of things was looked upon by Japan with some uneasiness. Korea seemed to be coming more and more under Chinese influence and in the same proportion her internal management became more corrupt. Japan regarded Korea as an independent power and was determined to see that independence upheld. This feeling on the part of Japan was sharply accentuated when in the spring of 1894 a Korean detective, Hong Chong-u, succeeded in gaining the confidence of Kim Ok-kyun who was living at Tokyo as a political refugee. He was induced to accompany his betrayer to Shanghai where, in a hotel, his betrayer shot him down in cold blood. The Chinese government condoned the dastardly

deed and sent the assassin, together with the body of his victim, to Korea in a Chinese gunboat. The body of Kim Ok-kyun was dismembered on April fourteenth in a most brutal manner and the different portions of his body were sent about the country as a warning to traitors. This lapse into the worst excesses of the old regime opened the eyes of Japan to the actual situation and gave her just the impetus she needed to take the strong position which she did later. Soon after this the Tong-hak took the town of Chŭn-ju and defeated all the government troops sent against them. The governor of the province, Kim Mun-hyŭn, made his escape from the place.

The government had at last become convinced of its inability to cope with its enemies single-handed and it determined to have recourse to the dangerous policy of asking China to throw troops into the peninsula to aid in putting down the Tong-hak uprising. China immediately complied and on June sixth 1,500 Chinese troops were embarked at Tientsin and were sent to Chemulpo under the escort of three gunboats.

It must be remembered that according to the third article of the Tientsin Convention China and Japan each agreed not to send troops into Korea without first notifying the other. In this case the Chinese failed to notify the Japanese until after the departure of the troops and there can be no doubt that at this point lies the strength of Japan's contention. When, later, the Chinese agreed to leave Korea simultaneously with the Japanese the latter naturally refused. The Chinese broke the convention first; they must leave first. But there were other important points involved. Korea was rapidly losing all semblance of independence and Japan was being jeopardized. The Chinese abrogation of the treaty gave Japan just the excuse she wanted for throwing troops into Korea and compelling those reforms which she believed could be effected in no other way. No sooner was she informed of China's action than the Japanese Minister Otori, then on leave of absence, was recalled, and sent immediately to Seoul with 400 marines, arriving June ninth.

The Chinese force did not approach the capital but landed at Asau some eighty miles south of Seoul. This force was soon augmented till it amounted to 2,000 men. But Japan was not idle. By the twelfth of June she had approx-

imately 8,000 troops in Korea. Matters stood thus when the news came that the Tong-hak, either frightened by the rumor of the approach of a Chinese army or being pressed by the government troops, had suddenly retired and the south was at peace. This tended to hasten a crisis between the Chinese and Japanese. There was no longer any cause why foreign troops should remain in the peninsula. The Chinese had come to put down the Tong-hak and the Japanese had come ostensibly to protect their nationals. Now that the Tong-haks had retired it did not take long to discover the real reasons underlying the actions of the Japanese. On June 16th she landed 3,000 more troops at Chemulpo and matters began to look so serious in Seoul that all the Chinese residents hastened away from the city and sought safety by embarking for China. About a thousand people thus made a hasty exit from the country.

On June 25th the Russian, British, French and American representatives in Seoul, in the interests of peace, jointly requested the Chinese and Japanese to simultaneously withdraw. But the Chinese refused to go until the Japanese did and the Japanese refused to go until reforms had been introduced which would clear the political atmosphere and give some semblance of truth to the fiction of Korean independence. The Korean government was thrown into consternation when on June 28th the Japanese Minister demanded a formal statement from Korea as to whether she were an independent state or not. She replied that she was an independent power.

Early in July the Japanese Minister handed the government a list of the reforms which it deemed necessary. As they were all incorporated in the reforms inaugurated a little later it is unnecessary to enumerate them here. Fifteen thousand Japanese troops had by this time landed on Korean soil and the capital was thoroughly invested. The prospects of peace seemed to be growing smaller each day. The people of Seoul fled in large numbers leaving their houses and all their effects except such as could be carried on their backs. Such was the terror that the very name of the Japanese inspired.

On July 20th the Japanese Minister sent an ultimatum to

the king complaining of the introduction of Chinese troops whose coming was undeniably to protect a dependent state. He gave the king three days to accept Japanese reforms. If within that time he did not accede to them they would be enforced. On the night of the 22nd the king returned an evasive answer and this decided the immediate policy of the Japanese. On the following morning two battalions of Japanese troops, feigning to start out for Asan, turned suddenly and marched on the palace. They met with a certain weak show of resistance at the gates but easily forced their way in and soon had the king in their care. Every member of the Min faction was forthwith driven out and the Prince Tai-wün was called in to assume a leading part in the management of the government.

By this time China and Japan were hurrying troops into the peninsula, the former by way of Asan and the latter by Fusan and Chemulpo. On July 21st eleven steamers left Taku for Asan and the mouth of the Yalu with 8,000 troops. Those that came to Asan were ostensibly for the purpose of aiding the government in the putting down of the Tong-hak. The Japanese government was immediately apprised of the departure of the transports from the Peiho and on July 25th the Akitsushima, Yoshino and Naniwa, among the best of the Japanese navy, were ordered from Sasebo to Asan. Two days later at six-thirty they encountered the Chinese men-of-war Tsi-yuen and Kwang-ki in the vicinity of P'ung Island off Asan.

The Japanese were not aware of the sudden turn which affairs had taken in Seoul but the Chinese were, and they expected the Japanese to take the offensive. The Japanese became aware of the situation only when they found the Chinese did not salute and that they were cleared for action. The Japanese speedily put themselves in fighting trim. As the channel narrowed and the vessels came within range the Chinese opened fire and were answered with terrible effect by the Japanese. The Kwang-yi was speedily disabled and beached. The Tsi-yuen, her bow-gun being disabled, withdrew toward Wei-hai-wei. It is disputed as to which side began firing first but it is quite immaterial. The fact that the Chinese knew what had occurred at Seoul, that they were cleared for action and that they failed to salute would seem to throw the burden of proof upon them.

While the Yoshino was pursuing the Tsi yuen, two more ships appeared on the horizon. They proved to be the Chinese dispatch boat Tsao-kiang and the British steamer Kowshing carrying about 1,500 Chinese troops. The Akitsushima took the former in charge and the Naniwa took the latter. The Naniwa signalled the transport to follow her, but the Chinese on board of her would not let the English Captain obey. Two parleys were held but the Chinese officers were obdurate and would not listen to reason. When it became apparent that the Chinese were bent upon self-destruction the Naniwa turned her battery upon her and blew her up. More than a thousand of the Chinese troops were drowned. A large number were picked up and held as prisoners of war. The sinking of the Kowshing has been judged as hasty but the situation was a peculiar one. The Chinese would neither surrender nor follow. They were plentifully supplied with small arms and could keep a boarding party at bay effectually. The better judgment of second thought proves that the Japanese were fully justified in their action.

The results of the P'ung incident became apparent at once. It made neutrals more careful, it proved that the sea was dangerous ground for the Chinese, it kept over a thousand men from landing at Asan and it proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that Japan was fully in earnest and would fight to the bitter end. Moreover it changed the whole plan of campaign for China. The Tong-hak were forgotten and the co-operation of the force at the Yalu and that at Asan and a joint attack upon the Japanese was the plan determined upon by the Chinese.

The Japanese forces in and about Seoul were now ready for a land campaign. It was wisely determined to eliminate from the problem all the Chinese forces south of Seoul before advancing against those in the north along the Ta-dong River. The army in the north was being watched by mounted spies. For the time being there was no danger to be apprehended from these troops in the north but the two thousand at Asan, if reinforced, might advance on the capital and make trouble unless they were dispersed once and for all. Accordingly on the twenty-fifth of July Gen. Oshima started for Asan with the greater part of the troops in Seoul. The march was rapid.

On the way the news of the P'ung incident was received and applauded. The vicinity of Asan was reached in three days. As the Japanese approached, the Chinese retreated a short distance to a point which they could easily fortify. On the twenty-eighth the Japanese army arrived within five miles of this position. A night attack was determined upon by Gen. Oshima. It was not explained to the army until midnight when it was aroused and informed of the intended movement. The advance was made in two divisions. The right wing, four companies of infantry and one of engineers under Lieutenant-colonel Tadeka, sought the enemy's left. The left wing under Gen. Oshima, and comprising nine companies of infantry, one battalion of artillery and one company of cavalry, swept forward in the dark to attack the flank and rear of the enemy's right.

It would have been a difficult undertaking even by daylight but in the dark it was fourfold more trying. The Chinese outposts in the neighboring village gave the signal, and, posted among the houses, offered a stubborn resistance. The assaulting column was repulsed and was compelled to lie down to hold the ground already taken. At last however the Chinese had to withdraw. They crowded slowly out into the neighboring rice fields.

This preliminary struggle was followed by a brief breathing space. It had lasted less than an hour but had proved a stiff encounter. At five the Japanese attached the redoubts. The left wing now came into action and under the smoke of the artillery the troops stormed the forts at either extremity. In half an hour the Chinese were dislodged and the rising sun looked down upon its flaming image on Japanese banners flying victoriously from the Chinese ramparts.

The escape of the Chinese general, Yeh Chi-chao has given ground for the alleged Chinese victory at A-san. It often happened during the Japan China war that, unless the Chinese force was almost utterly annihilated, they claimed a victory. It is still a puzzle to many, however, that in the Asan skirmish as well as in the battle of the Yalu the victorious Japanese permitted even a remnant of the enemy to escape. Although thoroughly defeated Gen. Yeh brought a remnant of his force around the city of Seoul and arrived

safely at P'yŭng-yang, undoubtedly a difficult and brilliant movement.

This first battle won by Japan in a foreign land, for a period of three centuries, illustrated two points. Not only had the Japanese soldiers learned their lesson from instructors but the officers proved themselves worthy of the steadfastness of the men under them. One man out of every twelve killed was an officer. Nor, when elated by the victory, did the Japanese forget the ends for which they were working. They did not undertake any further subjugation of the south, not even attempting to exterminate the Tong-haks. It was the Chinese in the peninsula with whom they were measuring swords. The forces at A-san being destroyed or dispersed and danger from that quarter was consequently removed, and the banners of rising sun turned northward.

The northern division of the Chinese army, which had been landed on Korean soil near the mouth of the Yalu River and had advanced southward from that point, had now held the city of P'yŭng-yang for upwards of a month. In anticipation of a Japanese advance they had fortified it as best they knew how, but as is usual with Chinese they had forgotten to guard their rear. On three occasions in this war they were attacked in their unprotected rear and utterly routed.

During the second week of August the commander of the Japanese fleet, Admiral Ito, with twenty men-of-war took a cruise into the mouth of the Gulf of Pechili. The feint had its desired effect, though wholly misunderstood by the world at large. It attracted the attention of the Chinese and transport after transport made its way safely across from Japan to Korea with its complement of troops.

On August tenth Major Ichinohe with the vanguard started northward from Seou. It was the first step toward Peking. Songdo was reached the following day. The next few days were spent in reconnoitering the Ta-dong River, but this part retired eventually to Song-do and there awaited reinforcements.

On the nineteenth Lieutenant-general Nodzu arrived from Japan with the reinforcements for which Gen. Oshima had been growing impatient. The latter immediately forwarded a detachment by another route toward P'yŭng-yang.

This was ordered to occupy an important position known as Sak Pass and was reinforced on September eighth by a battalion of infantry and a company of artillery. This became known as the Sak Division.

On the twenty-third Gen. Oshima set out from Seoul for the north with a Mixed Brigade. This was the name given to the Japanese army which participated in all the operations in the peninsula, so called because it was made up of various portions of the grand army. On the twenty-fifth Oshima joined the forces at Song-do. A few days before this Gen. Tadzumi had landed at Chemulpo and had been put in command of the Sak Division. On the twenty-sixth another division under Gen. Sato landed at Wuu-san on the east coast nearly opposite P'yüing-yang, and was immediately put under the command of Gen. Nodzu. This is best known as the Wuu-san (Gensan) Division.

These three bodies of troops slowly converged upon P'yüing yang by three routes, and made as if they were about to surround the entire city. But the commanders knew the weak point in Chinese tactics too well to begin trying new methods.

P'yüing-yang was fortified beyond the expectations of the Japanese and it should have held out indefinitely. The Tadong River flows before its walls giving it defense on the south. On the north stands a high eminence called Peony Mountain. To the west there are no special natural defenses. The plan of attack was to take advantage of the proverbial Chinese weakness, make a feint in the front but send the main body of troops around the city and attack in the rear. The capture of P'yüing-yang was very much like that of Quebec. The plan of attack was the same in each case. The Japanese made a feint in front of the town as Wolfe did from the shores of Levis, and sent the real attacking party around behind the town. The capture of Peony Mountain like the capture of the Heights of Abraham determined the struggle.

On the morning of the fifteenth the Japanese army was in position. The Sak and Gensan divisions lay before Peony and the other five heights to the north of the city. The Mixed Brigade lay beyond the river along the Seoul road which led by six fortified redoubts to the bridge of boats before the

River Gate of the town. The main body had crossed the river at Iron Island below the city and under cover of the cannonading of the Mixed Brigade had crept nearer and nearer the enemy from the west—the rear.

At half past four on the morning of the fifteenth a terrific cannonading was begun. Under cover of this the Sak Division took the fort nearest the river, on the northeast of the city. At the same time the Gensan Division took by assault the fort at the other end, on the north. From its vantage ground the Gensan Division planted its guns and poured a destructive fire on Peony Mountain. The Chinese commander being killed, the defenders became discouraged and demoralized and this strategic position was carried by the Sak Division by a single assault. The guns of the enemy, being turned upon the city from the summit of this hill, determined the contest. The main body trained its guns on the fifteen redoubts which guarded the western approach and thus cut off all hope of retreat from the city.

While the Japanese were having it all their own way on the north and west the Mixed Brigade across the river was suffering severely. Five Chinese forts guarded this main approach to P'yŭng-yang. The Japanese troops, though ordered to make merely a feint, were carried away by the inspiration of the hour and rashly attempted to capture these forts by assault, but they were greatly outnumbered and were compelled at last to retire having lost heavily. But the fall of Peony Mountain settled the day, and that night the Chinese soldiers, following in the wake of their despicable commanders sought safety in flight toward the Yalu by such avenues as the Japanese left open for them. It is generally believed that the Japanese purposely left open a loophole of escape, not caring to have so many prisoners on their hands.

The feint made by Admiral Ito during the first week in August has been mentioned. During the P'yŭng-yang campaign the Japanese fleet had been patrolling the Yellow Sea about the Korean archipelago. Finally the last company of Japanese troops were landed on Korean soil and the order was given, "On to Peking." Never was an invasion undertaken with such relish since the days when, three centuries before, the hordes of Hideyoshi had landed on the coast of

Korea and raised this same cry. The outcome now was destined to be far different from that of the former invasion. Marshall Yamagata arriving in Korea on Sept. 12th with 10,000 reinforcements began the new campaign as Commander-in-chief.

During the P'yŭng-yang engagement the Japanese fleet had been stationed at the mouth of the Ta-dong River, forty miles from the scene of the battle, ready to be used in any emergency. On the sixteenth, the campaign in Korea being settled by the flight of the Chinese army toward the Yalu, the main and first flying squadrons weighed anchor and departed for the supposed scene of Chinese activity at the mouth of the Yalu, where it was believed that Chinese troops were being landed. Two days previous 4,000 Chinese troops had left Taku to reinforce the new army, being gathered on the banks of the Yalu for an invasion of Korea. The transports which contained this detachment were protected by six cruisers and four torpedo boats and were reinforced at Talien Bay by the Peiyang squadron. On the sixteenth the transports landed their burden and on the following day departed again for Taku, attended, as on the trip over, by six cruisers and the Peiho squadron.

On the same morning the Japanese fleet crossed the path of the returning transports. At nine o'clock the smoke of the Chinese fleet was first discovered and about twelve the fleet came into full view. The battle opened with the main and flying squadrons leading in a single line across the track of the Chinese fleet, which was advancing at half the pace set by the enemy. This formation, the ironclads in the center and the weakest ships on either wing, had been assumed as soon as it appeared that the Japanese line was coming head on as if to pierce the Chinese fleet. At a range of 5,200 meters the battle was opened by the starboard barbette of the ironclad Ting-yeun. The whole fleet soon joined in the fight but the Japanese did not answer for some minutes. As the Yoshino came on, the course was changed and the enemy was passed from left to right. The comparatively helpless ships of the right flank received the severest fire. The two old cruisers on the extreme right, which were of wood and very inflammable, at once took fire and were thenceforth use-

less. The Yang-wei took fire at the outset and retired. The Chao-yung was not more fortunate and sank about half past two, the battle having begun at one P.M. Japanese time.

Two of the twelve Chinese ships were thus disposed of at once. Two more, the Tsi-yuen and Kwang-chia, deserted the battle immediately on various excuses and departed for Port Arthur.

When the Japanese line had passed the Chinese fleet the flying squadron had begun to port, when the two Chinese ships, which until then had remained in the mouth of the Yalu, were seen making their way toward the remainder of the fleet. Instantly the flying squadron began to starboard and the oncoming vessels prudently retired. These two ships, the Kwan-ping and Ping-yuen, not having come into action, and two, the Yang-wei and Chao-yung, having retired from the battle in flames, and two, the Tsi-yuen and Kwan-chia, having deserted, we find six ships of 23,000 tons bearing the brunt of the battle.

When the flying squadron began to starboard, the main squadron, which was following in fine order, kept to port. The feint against the Kwan-ping and Ping-yuen proving successful, the flying squadron kept to starboard and followed the main squadron. Soon, however, it was seen that the slower vessels of the main squadron were being left exposed and Admiral Ito signalled for the flying squadron to starboard again and intervene between the distressed vessels and the enemy. Thus the main and flying squadrons moved about the Chinese fleet in opposite directions, the former on the inner track.

This second round proved a severe one for the Chinese fleet. The contest now assumed a desperate phase. During the opening of the struggle attention on either side had been paid to the enemy's weaker ships. The two slow and defenseless ships of the Japanese fleet, the Akagi and Saikio, caused the Admiral much trouble, if indeed they did not alter entirely his plan of attack. That he brought them out of the battle at all is a great credit to his ability to manoeuvre at short notice and under fire. It is, however, inexplicable that such ships were allowed to follow the main squadron into the engagement.

By two o'clock the ranks of the two struggling fleets were considerably thinned out and the battle became simplified though more desperate than ever, as the main squadron began to close in on the powerful iron-clads and as the flying squadron separated the remainder of the Chinese fleet from their only hope of safety and scattered them broadcast over the sea. The Akagi was now out of the fight and, under the protection of the flying squadron, was making for the Ta-dong River. The Hiyei, also disabled and protected by the main squadron, was making for the same destination. The Saikio having come as it were from the very jaws of death, when attempting to attack the burning Yang-wei, lay between the object of her deadly mission and the fleets, watching how the battle fared.

On the Chinese side there was far more destruction, because of the larger number of slow and inflammable ships. Of the total, two, the Tsi-yuen and Kwan-chia, had long since deserted as we have already said. The Yang-wei and Chao-yung were both desperately burning. The Chih-yuen, having passed from the Admiral's wing to the right wing, had attempted the most ridiculous feat of attacking the flying squadron as the latter came to relieve the Akagi and Saikio. Being severely hit in her foolhardy course, her commander, evidently as revenge for going under, attempted to ram. The guns of the fleet were instantly brought to bear upon the ill-starred ship and, riddled with the fire of the heavy and machine guns alike, she went under, flinging her crew into the air as she listed the last time. A similar fate overtook the Ping-yuen upon whom the flying squadron bore. A terrible fire from the Yoshino riddled her burning hulk and she too, went down like a monstrous bonfire into the tawny waters of Yellow Sea.

Meanwhile the struggle between the two iron-clads and the Japanese main squadron had been raging until both the contestants were nearly exhausted. The former, knowing well that in them rested China's only hope on the sea, and equally desperate because of the cowardliness and incompetency displayed throughout the battle by their own comrades as well as by the determined wrath of their ancient foe, fought to their last chargesave three with undaunted heroism. Nothing in the conflict which raged so many hours could

have equalled the sight of the crews of the two battered iron-clads, their ammunition far spent, meeting the last onslaught of the main squadron as it bore down upon them for the last time on that memorable afternoon, with perfect calm and a purpose to go down with the ships when the ammunition gave out.

The last onslaught was made and met, but before another could be made night had begun to fall and the Japanese, themselves not far from exhaustion, deemed it wise to withdraw. This battle has been called a Japanese victory and probably with reason, though according to the dictum of modern naval warfare a decided Japanese victory could have been achieved only by capturing or disabling the two Chinese iron-clads which were the soul of the Chinese fleet. Technically the failure to do this made it a drawn battle, each side retiring unconquered. But there is every reason to believe that this battle, in reality, decided the Japanese supremacy over the Yellow Sea.

The land battle at P'yŭng-yang and the naval battle off the mouth of the Yalu opened the eyes of the world to the fact that Japan was a power to be reckoned with. The incident at P'ung Island and the battle of Ansan had proved nothing except the fact that Japan was fully prepared to go to extremities and that the war was actually begun. It is probable that a majority of intelligent people thought the Japanese would fall an easy victim to the Chinese forces. On the sea China had several war-vessels that far out-matched anything which Japan possessed and on land she had unlimited population from which to recruit her armies. She had enjoyed the assistance of many foreign military and naval men in getting her army and navy into shape, and in addition to this she had the sympathy of Great Britain in the struggle. It was freely predicted that the superior quickness of the Japanese might bring her certain small victories at first but that as time went on and China really awoke to the seriousness of the situation a Chinese army would be put in the field which would eventually drive the Japanese off the mainland. The Japanese invasion of 1592 was cited to show that though momentarily successful, the Japanese would be ultimately defeated.

The battles of P'yŭng-yang and Yalu changed all this. In the first place it was discovered that the Chinese, with equal or superior numbers, could not hold a strongly defensive position against their assailants. The Chinese had everything in their favor so far as natural surroundings went. They lacked the one essential and it was the demonstration of this lack at P'yŭng-yang that made the world begin to doubt whether the Chinese would really do what was expected of them.

The battle of the Yalu, while technically a drawn battle, proved that the Japanese could stand up against superior ships and hold them down to a tie game. The Chinese ammunition was exhausted and if darkness had not come on the Japanese would have discovered this and the big Chinese vessels would have been captured. From that day the progress of the Japanese was an unbroken series of victories. The myth of China's strength was shattered and the whole history of the Far East, if not of the world, entered upon a new and unexpected phase.

We have already mentioned that 4,000 Chinese troops had been landed at the mouth of the Yalu to reinforce the army that had been gathered there for the invasion of Korea. That invasion was destined not to be carried out, for the routed Chinese army from P'yŭng-yang came streaming north in headlong flight and the Japanese followed them up just fast enough to worry them but without making it necessary to encumber themselves with prisoners. It shows how perfectly the Japanese had gauged the calibre of the Chinese that they should have driven them on in this contemptuous manner. When the Japanese arrived at the Yalu they found that the Chinese had occupied an advantageous position on the further side and would attempt to block the advance but it was too late to stem the tide of Japanese enthusiasm. The passage was made with ease, the Chinese quickly put to flight and the war left Korean territory, not to return.

The subsequent operations of war are of surpassing interest to the general historian but they cannot be called a part of Korean history, so we shall be compelled to leave them and go back to the peninsula, where the results of Japan's victories were to be keenly felt.

